



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
23 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.  
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #V.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: James E. Rier Jr., Commissioner\*

DATE: May 14, 2014

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Interim Report Regarding the Saint Joseph's College Teacher Education Program

**BACKGROUND:** In late fall 2011 Saint Joseph's College requested an on-site campus visitation for the review of the following teacher preparation programs:

- Elementary Education (K-8) - Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education
- Secondary Education (7-12) – Minor (English, Mathematics, History, Life Science, Physical Science)
- Physical Education (K-12) - Bachelor of Science in Physical Education

The on-site visit was conducted from February 5<sup>th</sup> through February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Following the on-site visit, a Review Team Report was prepared which included findings, commendations, and program recommendations as well as a recommendation for State program approval status. The Team Report was distributed for receipt to Board members during its April 11, 2012 meeting. Action on this report was taken by State Board members during its May 9, 2012 meeting at which time the Board approved the following recommendation:

“That the Saint Joseph's College teacher education program be granted program approval from winter 2012 to Winter 2014 and that the Unit be required to develop and submit an Interim Report to the Maine Department of Education no later than January 31, 2014. The Interim Report would be limited to the Unit's response to the Team's recommendations associated with Unit Standard Four. Following review of the Interim Report, a recommendation will be made to the State Board of Education as to whether the Unit's approval should be extended through the winter 2017”. The Review Team's recommendations associated with Unit Standard Four – Diversity were stated as follows:

1. The Unit needs to revisit their diversity plan in concert with administration and make renewed efforts to increase and retain both students and faculty from diverse backgrounds.
2. The Unit needs to develop a plan for having teacher candidates gain the knowledge and experience necessary to prepare them to work with students from diverse cultural backgrounds as well as with students having exceptional needs. The plan needs to be for all education candidates rather than for those who select the option.

3. The Unit needs to develop assessments for measuring teacher candidates' proficiencies in working with students and faculty from diverse backgrounds.

The required Interim Report from Saint Joseph's College, along with supporting appendices, was and will be distributed to Board members during the May 14, 2014 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board receive for consideration the Saint Joseph's College Interim Report regarding its Teacher Education Program. This matter will be an action agenda item for the June 11, 2014 meeting of the Board.

\*Prepared by Anita Bernhardt  
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